IB. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 2 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claims 1, 3, and 21, as shown below.

Please enter new claims 22-27, as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated apolipoprotein E (apoE) [[apoE]] stable folding intermediate, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is at least about 80% pure, wherein the apoE is apoE3 or apoE4, and wherein the stable folding intermediate is formed at a pH of from about 1.0 to about 5.0.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate comprises an N-terminal fragment of apoE4.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the N-terminal fragment of apoE4 is about 22 kDa in size.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying an agent that reduces the lipid binding activity of an apoE stable folding intermediate, the method comprising:

(a) contacting an isolated apoE stable folding intermediate in a solution with a test agent; and

(b) determining the effect, if any, of said test agent on the lipid binding activity of the apoE stable folding intermediate.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the solution has a pH in the range of from about 2 to about 6.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein the solution has a pH of about 4.0.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein solution comprises a denaturant.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the denaturant is urea in a concentration of from about 3 M to about 6 M.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein said determining is by turbidimetric analysis of clearing of a lipid-containing vesicle.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is an apoE4 stable folding intermediate.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying an agent that reduces the level of an apoE stable folding intermediate, the method comprising:

(a) contacting an isolated apoE stable folding intermediate in a solution with a test agent; and

(b) determining the effect, if any, of said test agent on the level of the apoE stable folding intermediate.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein said determining is by far-UV circular dichroism.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein said determining is by Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein said determining is by dynamic light scattering.

16. (Withdrawn) A method of treating apoE-related disorder, the method comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that reduces the level and/or activity of an apoE stable folding intermediate.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the disorder is a neurological disease.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the neurological disease is Alzheimer's disease.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein formation of neurofibrillary tangles are inhibited.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the disorder is a cardiovascular disease.

21. (Currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is at least about [[80%]] 90% pure.

22. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate comprises an N-terminal fragment of apoE3.

23. (New) The composition of claim 22, wherein the N-terminal fragment of apoE3 is about 22 kDa in size.

24. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is formed at a pH of from about 2.0 to about 4.0.

25. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is formed at a urea concentration of from about 2M to about 7M.

26. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is formed at a urea concentration of from about 3.5 M to about 4.5 M.

27. (New) The composition of claim 1, wherein the apoE stable folding intermediate is formed at a urea concentration of from about 4.5 M to about 5 M.